



## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES September 9, 2014**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER –**

Supervisor Ken Fletcher called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

Members Present: Supervisor Ken Fletcher, Clerk Mary Clark, and Trustee Karen Mojica (via phone)

Guest Present: Vice President Delta Township Firefighters Union Bob Lane

Staff Present: Chief John Clark

Staff Absent: Township Manager Richard Watkins and Finance Director Jeff Anderson

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Ken Fletcher asked if there was any public comment.

Bob Lane introduced himself as the Vice President of the Delta Township Firefighters Union and thanked the Supervisor for the opportunity to speak. Bob then stated that he wanted to address the issue of mandatory overtime. He provided the following information to the Committee:

- Public Act 125 from 1928, back in the 20's states that you cannot hold firefighters over at the end of their shift mandatory, which we were not aware of.
- It has been an ongoing practice for quite some time.
- Due to some challenges in staffing it has been two or three times a week.
- It is against the law and we don't want to be put in that position anymore.
- At no time have we said that we are not interested in working overtime.
- We are not interested in staffing shifts and being staffed adequately.
- We want to be successful, just like you want us to be successful.
- When the time comes when everyone is strapped and nobody can cover we don't feel we can be held. Public Act 125 upholds that and stands behind us.
- It has always been our intent to help out as much as possible, and people are doing that.
- There are people picking up on a lot over overtime, but there comes a point where you can't do it, due to family or other commitments.

Bob then asked if there were any questions on that before he moves on to another subject.

A discussion with the Committee members followed, which included:

- The Firefighters willingness to work mandatory overtime.
- Examples of when it might not be possible for a person to work overtime.
- Current staffing downfalls.
- The Township Manager's involvement.
- Run response times (current and past)
- The fact that nobody knew the law existed.
- Issues with Officers (three Officers are currently out on medical).

Bob Lane then stated that they are willing to be a part of the solution, and invited members of the Committee to stop by the Fire Station during shift change, and sit down with the firefighters for some coffee and ask some questions.

### **III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA –**

Motion made by Mary Clark to approve the agenda as presented. Ken Fletcher seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

### **IV. SET/ADJUST August 21, 2014 MINUTES –**

Motion made by Karen Mojica to approve the August 21, 2014 minutes as presented. Mary Clark seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

### **V. DELTA PATROL REPORT, Lt. Jeff Campbell -**

#### **a) Pawn Shop Ordinance Update**

Lt. Campbell provided a handout to the Committee members, and provided the following information on a proposed ordinance regarding an online database for pawn shops, resellers, and scrap yards:

- They will be required to use this online system to keep track of the items they take in.
- The program that we decided we wanted to use is similar to one currently used in Lansing.
- We have access to Lansing's system as well.
- There is a lot of bad activity going on in Delta now, which they are not required to record.
- What we want to be able to do is just be able to have this on a database.
- We are solving a lot of crimes right now by just watching the Pawn Shop database in Lansing.
- The system we are looking at right now, is what Lansing is also looking at, and is no cost to us. The cost is taken on by the Pawn Shops that are using it, and they usually pass the cost on to their customers.
- It requires an ordinance for a Township to mandate and use this type of database, which is in the process of being drafted.
- Dave Revore is drafting the ordinance, which should be completed shortly.
- Grand Ledge is also looking into using this database, and I have arranged for them to split the Attorney fees for the ordinance draft.
- This database covers everybody. The State law has a lot of gaps in it as far as who is required to report, so we are trying to write it so that it pulls everyone together.

Ken Fletcher asked if Delta Township has seen pawn shops moving into the area.

Lt. Campbell indicated that they have not, but we do have buying gold shops, scrap metal and Game Stop locations, which tend to attract this type of activity.

The Committee discussed expectations of push back from business who don't want to use it, or complaining about the cost. Also discussed was the fact that people who have experience using the database like it, because it is easy to use and the cost can be passed on to their customers.

Ken Fletcher then stated that if everyone is in agreement with this, we will go ahead with it and once the draft is done we will have it brought to a Committee of the Whole meeting, which should be sometime in October.

Lt. Campbell then reported that Jon Vancore has two new neighborhood watch groups that are up and running. One is in the Pointe West area, and the other one is in the Dawn Haven area. The Dawn Haven area had one years ago, but it went to the wayside, and they are working on getting it back together.

#### **DELTA FIRE REPORT, Chief John Clark –**

Chief Clark provided a detailed overview of proposed amendments to the Fire Department Open Burning Ordinance, Emergency Services System, Fire Code Ordinance, Fire Alarm Systems, and HazMat Cost Recovery to the Committee, which included the following items:

##### **a) Open Burning Ordinance**

- Removal of the Domestic Fire reference in the ordinance
- Referenced fee schedule
- Referenced discretionary waiver of fine for first offense
- Included the current burning rules and regulations

A discussion followed, which included the following:

- The annual burn permit is a one-time permit.
- This a one-time annual online permit, but you do still have to call before you burn due to the weather conditions.
- The law with regard to burning past 11 o'clock.
- Noise ordinance variance on weekdays versus weekends.
- The need for a fire to be constantly attended.
- Delta Patrol's ability to enforce the ordinance with regard to noise.
- Since 2003 there have been no complaints about the 11 p.m. rule.
- Changing the 3" in diameter requirement to 4" in diameter to make the burning and recycling ordinances consistent.
- Moving the 11 p.m. deadline to 12 p.m.

##### **b) Emergency Services System**

- Referenced utility-related emergency response and response to open burning

- Changed emergency services to emergency medical services where appropriate
- Included language to split fees equally between vehicle owners involved in multiple-vehicle incidents
- Changed the review of the fee schedule from annually to as needed per Township Board

A discussion on the fee schedule being reviewed annually ensued. Chief Clark suggested changing it to say that the fee schedule is subject to review as needed by the Township Board.

All agreed on this change.

**c) Fire Code Ordinance**

- Referenced the Tent Ordinance (lined up with Zoning Ordinance)
- Removed language regarding open burning and referred to the Open Burning Ordinance
- Removed 903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D Sprinkler Systems referencing one- and two-family dwellings
- Updated fire extinguisher requirements
- Added 3309 Division 1.4G Fireworks referencing the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act
- Removed Appendix C Distribution of Fire Hydrants

Mary Clark asked if the duct smoke detector is new, and where would they be required.

Chief Clark stated that it was a new addition, and in any new construction they will be required.

**d) Fire Alarms Systems**

- Increased fines for fourth and subsequent offenses; increased time to pay to 10 days and late payment fee of 100%
- Clarified property or business owner

A discussion on increasing the time allowed to pay fines to 30 days, and a change of 15% late payment fee ensued.

All agreed to these changes.

**e) HazMat Cost Recovery**

- Changed title to Emergency Services and Haz-Mat Cost Recovery Fee Schedule
- Clarified language for responding personnel and rate of pay
- Increased mileage fee for cars, pickups and command units

**VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.